



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **AURORA COUPLE INDICTED FOR FORCED LABOR, DOCUMENT SERVITUDE, AND HARBORING**

DENVER — An Aurora, Colo., couple were indicted here today by a federal grand jury on charges of forced labor, document servitude and harboring an illegal alien, announced Bill Leone, acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado; Jeffrey Copp, special agent-in-charge of the Denver office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and James Casey, acting special agent in charge of the FBI's Denver Division.

Homaidan Al-Turki, 36, and his wife Sarah Khonaizan, 35, are being held in Arapahoe County on related state charges.

According to the indictment, starting in September 2000 and ending in November 2004, Al-Turki and Khonaizan allegedly obtained and aided and abetted obtaining the continued labor services of an Indonesian woman by creating a climate of fear and intimidation through aggravated sexual abuse and other means. This intimidation was intended to cause the victim to believe that if she didn't performed the services — which included cooking, cleaning, childcare and other domestic labor — that she would suffer serious harm. The defendants also allegedly threatened the victim with abuse of law and the legal process. During that same time frame, the defendants allegedly confiscated and concealed the victim's Indonesian passport and U.S. visa, and harbored her for the purpose of obtaining domestic services for little or no wages or pay, knowing that she was illegally in the United States.

Al-Turki also faces sexual assault charges in Arapahoe County in relation to his conduct with the victim in this case.

"Few crimes are more repugnant to our society than enslaving other human beings," said Jeffrey Copp, special agent in charge of the Denver Office of Investigations for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). "It's hard for many people to believe that forced labor still exists in

this country. Anyone who suspects such crimes are occurring should call the ICE hotline at: 866-DHS-2ICE."

The indictment includes a forfeiture allegation, stating that the victim is entitled to \$92,700, which represents a conservative estimate of the gross proceeds she would have been entitled to had she been paid lawfully.

Both defendants face: One count of forced labor including aggravated sexual abuse, which carries a penalty of up to life in federal prison, and/or a \$250,000 fine; one count of document servitude, which carries a penalty of not more than 5 years in federal prison, and/or a \$250,000 fine; and one count of harboring an alien, which carries a penalty of not more than 10 years in federal prison, and/or a \$250,000 fine. A U.S. District Court Judge in Denver will determine the defendants' actual prison sentence.

The FBI also investigated this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brenda Taylor is prosecuting the case.

These charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*